

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Squamata, Amphisbaenidae, *Leposternon* spp.: Distribution extension, new state record, and geographic distribution map.

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The genus *Leposternon* Wagler, 1824 is represented by fossorial squamate reptiles characterized mainly by having head always dorsoventrally compressed, nostril with the opening on the ventral surface of the snout, rostral and nasals fused into a single shield (= rostronasal shield), tail very short with rounded tip, autotomic site tail absent, and presence of pores precloacal in two species (Gans 1971; Porto et al. 2000). Actually, *Leposternon* is represented by seven species: *L. infraorbitale* (Berthold, 1859), *L. kisteumacheri* Porto, Soares & Caramaschi, 2000, *L. microcephalum* Wagler, 1824, *L. octostegum* (Duméril, 1851), *L. polystegum* (Duméril, 1851), *L. scutigerum* (Hemprich, 1820), and *L. wuchereri* (Peters, 1879). Species of the genus *Leposternon* occur in almost all Brazilian states (Figure 1), and with exception of *L. microcephalum* that occurs also in Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay, all other species are endemics from Brazil.

During analyses of specimens of *Leposternon* deposited in the collection of *Museu de Zoologia* of the *Universidade de São Paulo*, Brazil, a specimen (MZUSP 6387, Figure 2) collected by C. A. de Souza in the municipality of Rio Branco (09°58'30" S, 67°48'36" W), state of Acre, Brazil, deserved our attention. Based in the characterization of the species of *Leposternon* presented by Gans (1971), we identified the specimen as *Leposternon* aff. *infraorbitale*.

The specimen is an adult medium-sized male (total length 398.8 mm, head length 16.2 mm, tail length 14.8 mm), robust body (diameter of midbody

17.5 mm), and relatively small tail (3.7 % of total length). It presents 281 dorsal postpectoral half-annuli, 243 ventral postpectoral half-annuli, 10 caudal annuli, and 38 dorsal and 41 ventral segments of midbody half-annuli. Regarding head scalation the following variations were observed in relation to the sample examined by Gans (1971): anterior portion of the azygous is placed between the pre-frontals, in contact with the rostronasal shield; the posterior portion of the azygous presents a small shield placed between the frontal shields; presence of an infraocular shield at each side; an enlarged ocular shields, being 1.63 times longer than high. The pectoral shields are small, similarly to the pattern of the specimens from the state of Bahia (*sensu* Gans 1971). General dorsal coloration is yellowish brown, being less conspicuous on the anterior region and darker towards the tail. Ventral coloration is cream, except for some places in the lateral portion where the dorsal coloration is apparent. The background color of tail dorsum is yellowish, with dark brown spots on center scales, and the venter is light yellowish.

Leposternon infraorbitale exhibits variation in the color pattern, and on meristic and morphometric characters (S. L. B. Ribeiro, pers. obs.). However, to prove that MZUSP 6387 specimen of *Leposternon* could be identified as *L. infraorbitale*, a more detailed analysis is necessary. For this reason we considered the referred specimen as *Leposternon* aff. *infraorbitale*. This is the first record of the genus *Leposternon* for the state of Acre, and the westernmost locality of its distribution (Figure 1).

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Figure 1. Geographic distribution of the species of *Leposternon*. The new record to the municipality of Rio Branco, state of Acre, Brazil is represented by a red star; other records represent data from the following literature: Gans (1971); Barros-Filho and Valverde (1996); Montero (1996); Rodrigues (1996); Dirksen and De la Riva (1999); Montero and Terol (1999); Porto et al. (2000); Strüssmann (2000); Nogueira (2001); Borges-Nojosa and Caramaschi (2005); Carvalho Júnior and Nascimento (2005); Freitas and Silva (2005); Vitt et al. (2005); Achaval and Olmos (2007); and Vaz-Silva et al. (2007). Abbreviation of Brazilian states: AC = Acre; AL = Alagoas; AM = Amazonas; AP = Amapá; BA = Bahia; CE = Ceará; DF = Distrito Federal; ES = Espírito Santo; GO = Goiás; MA = Maranhão; MG = Minas Gerais; MS = Mato Grosso do Sul; MT = Mato Grosso; PA = Pará; PB = Paraíba; PE = Pernambuco; PI = Piauí; PR = Paraná; RJ = Rio de Janeiro; RN = Rio Grande do Norte; RO = Rondônia; RR = Roraima; RS = Rio Grande do Sul; SC = Santa Catarina; SE = Sergipe; SP = São Paulo; TO = Tocantins.

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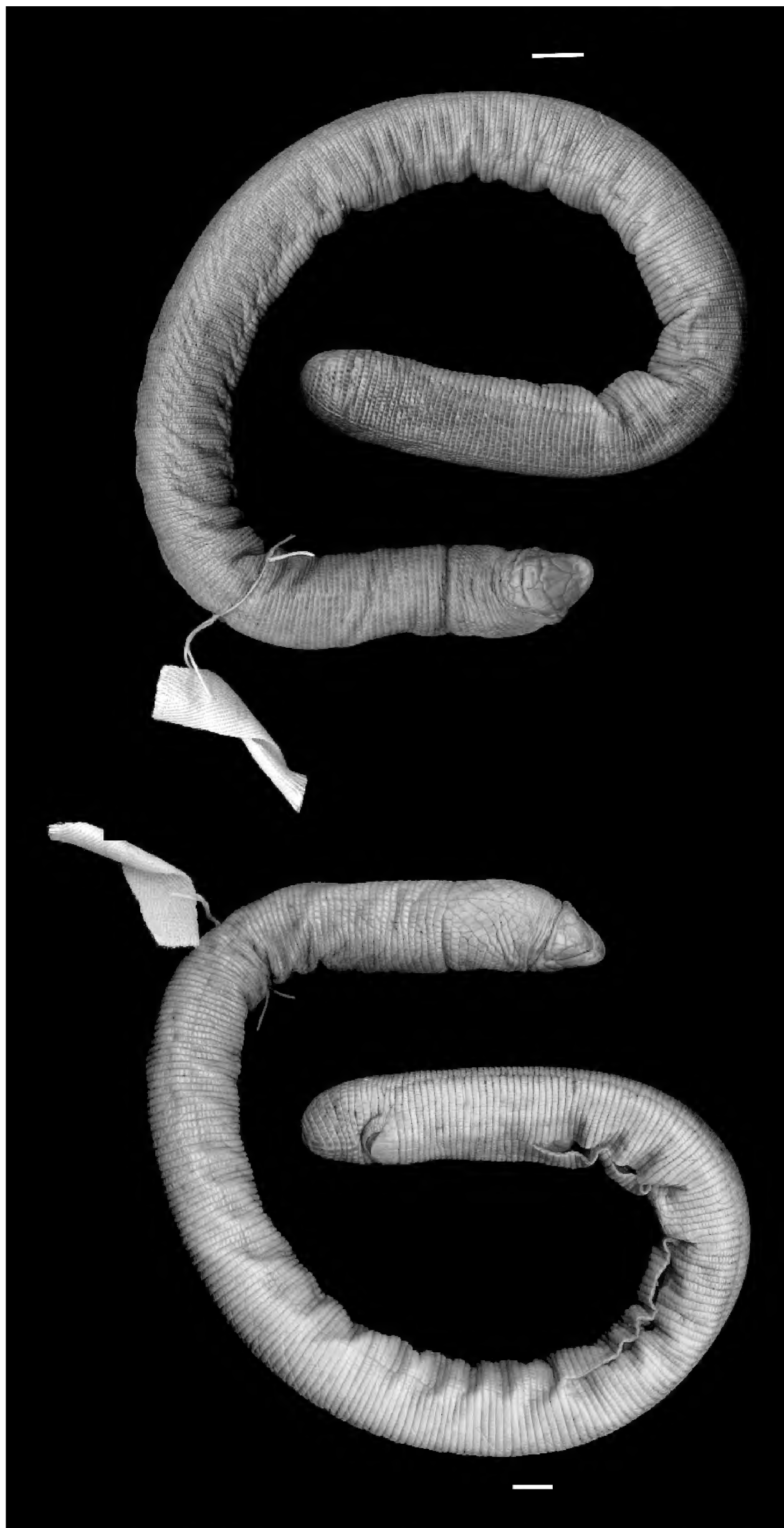


Figure 2. *Leposternon* aff. *infraorbitale* from the municipality of Rio Branco, state of Acre, Brazil (MZUSP 6387). Scale bar = 10 mm.

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